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Blondes and Brunettes

Blondes and brunettes are the colloquial names for the two Aristasian sexes. The more formal, and scientific, terms are *Chelani* and *Melini*.

Chelani and Melini in Aristasia Pura

Pure Aristasians are an intemorphic people. This means, among other things, that they have two complementary sexes (both feminine) rather than opposite (schizomorphic) sexes (feminine and masculine). While the male and female sexes are governed by Mars (a masculine form of Sai Vikhë) and Venus (Sai Sushuri) respectively, the Chelanic and Melinic sexes are governed by Sai Sushuri (Venus) and Sai Thamë (the original feminine form of Jupiter) respectively. Naturally, according to modern Aristasian science (which is contiguous with traditional science, unlike the rationalist-revolutionary science of late-Telluria), these Celestial rulerships are the primary causes of the sexes, their biology being a development or by-product of this.

In Aristasia Pura, Chelani are always fair-haired (even when belonging to darker-skinned Estrenne races) and Melini always dark-haired. Like the Tellurian sexes, they are biologically and psychologically very different. A blonde and a brunette are needed to produce an intemorph child. Brunettes are much physically stronger than blondes (they are also considerably stronger than Tellurian males) and have a differing psychology to the extent that blondes and brunettes not infrequently find each other hard to understand and talk at cross-purposes.

Linguistic Note

Chelan = "blonde" (as opposed to "a blonde")

Melin = "brunette (as opposed to "a brunette")

Chelana = blonde (singular)

Melini = brunette (singular)

Chelani = blondes (plural)

Melini = brunettes (plural)

Chelanic (or *chelan*) = blonde (adjectival)

Melinic (or *melin*) = brunette (adjectival)

Chelanity = the quality of blondeness

Melinity = the quality of brunetteness

The roots *chel-* and *mel-* also appear as prefixes in certain words, for example:

Cheliniar = (of a title or heritage) inherited in the blonde line

Meliniar = (of a title or heritage) inherited in the brunette line

In some Eastern societies (of the type called cheliniar) it would normally be the blonde's name that was taken (in marriage) by the brunette.

Chel and mel are occasionally used to mean a blonde or a brunette respectively. This usage is somewhat archaic and would tend to be either poetic or humorous when used by a Westrenne speaker; though it can also be an informal usage in some north-western circles.

Chelani and Melini in Aristasia-in-Telluria

Clearly blondes and brunettes are not two biological sexes in Aristasia-in-Telluria, both being biological *females*. Puran chelani and melini are not female, though they are feminine - femininity being a cosmic principle and femaleness a schizomorphic biological sex.

Blondeness and brunetteness among Tellurian females are most commonly described as being personality types. They have absolutely no connexion with hair-colour and the terms "raven-blonde" and "honey-brunette" are sometimes used to describe blondes and brunettes whose hair-colour does not match their personality type. Anecdotal evidence from Aristasian communities suggests that raven-blondes and honey-brunettes are actually more commonly found than their proper-coloured sisters (using "proper" here in the older and heraldic sense).

Many claim that blonde and brunette personality-types are clearly evident among non-Aristasian females, and Aristasians often refer to Outland women as blondes or brunettes (regardless of hair-colour). There is even some scientific evidence for this. The copious amount of research that has recently been carried out into the psychological differences between the Tellurian sexes (which has its physical root in different brain-patterns and completely disproves the "social-conditioning theory of femininity") also tends

to indicate that while there is one fundamental male psychological type there are two distinct female psychological types which correspond remarkably well to the Aristasian concepts of blonde and brunette.

Nevertheless, among the more committed Aristasians-in-Telluria, blondeness or brunetteness is not a mere question of personality-type, but is a chosen adoption of the status, made more possible in post-Bridgehead Aristasia, of *honorary intemorph*. It is for this reason that Aristasians tend not to refer to themselves as "women", but prefer the term maid.

The "Redhead Question"

We include this section partly because for many non-Aristasians (especially mildly-hostile Outlanders) the very first question on learning about blondes and brunettes is to say "What about redheads?" This is perhaps partly caused by the over-use of the colloquial terms by Aristasians rather than the more formal *chelani* and *melini*.

In some cases the enquiry is a genuine one, but very often it seems to spring from the late-Tellurian ultra-individualist hatred of "categories" or "stereotypes": which, of course, is ultimately that hatred of all form, thamë and of the Celestial Archetypes themselves which underlies the chaotic nature of a Tamasic society.

In "chat rooms" and the like, it is almost routine for mildly-hostile females to declare "I am a redhead" upon hearing about blondes and brunettes. The proportion of red-headedness among hostile visitors seems far to outweigh its distribution among the West-Tellurian population as a whole!

Be that as it may, here is the answer to the question:

In Aristasia-in-Telluria, as we have already stated, hair-colour has no bearing whatever on sex.

In The Motherland, as in Telluria, everyone is born of one sex or the other. Genuine ambisexual conditions among all races are extremely rare and are not important enough to detain us.

Red-haired Aristasians are still either chelani or melini. Chelani will sometimes be a coppery red-blonde and melini a dark fox-red. There is a belief that red-headedness can be an indication of minor hormonal imbalance which can cause a small degree of "other sex" orientation - the red-haired rambunctious blonde is a stock figure of Puran children's literature - but this is a minor phenomenon and does not alter the fact that all Aristasians are either chelani or melini.

In Aristasia-in-Telluria, girls can occasionally be confused about their sex. Especially for a newcomer, discovering one's sex can take time. Since Aristasians-in-Telluria often adopt multiple *personae*, it is also possible to have *personae* in each sex. A girl who has

personae in each sex is known as an ambi, while girls who have more than one persona all in the same sex are called *plenary blondes* or *plenary brunettes*.

It has been discovered over the years that most Aristasians-in-Telluria are primarily of one sex. The true ambi is a rarity. Most girls are plenaries and even among those who have other-sex personae, it is usually found that they fall quite definitely into one sex with the other being an occasional "excursion" - even though the other-sex persona may be very real for her limited existence.

There do appear, though, to be a small minority of true ambis, although some would cast doubt on this.

Cultural Qualities of Blondes and Brunettes

From the introduction to *The District Governess* by Miss Regina Snow, 1996:

Aristasian brunettes are about as feminine as a normal human woman - that is to say, about twice as feminine as a human woman in the last quarter of the 20th century. Aristasian blondes, on the other hand, are ultra-feminine.

On the question of blondes and brunettes, it should be understood that, as with men and women, the two sexes are mentally, physically, emotionally and psychologically different. And, as with men and women, the differences are greater rather than less than they superficially appear to be. Brunettes are very much stronger physically than blondes (the difference is rather more marked than that between men and women). They are in many respects more practical and more "steady". The emotions of a blonde are a surging torrent, her perspective often quite unworldly.

To say, however, that brunettes are the "dominant sex" is a considerable oversimplification. Blondes are regarded with the highest respect, and are often considered to be the custodians of a higher wisdom. They are often Princesses and sovereign rulers of nations and principalities; they are often priestesses and philosophers (philosophy in Aristasia being far from a dry academic discipline). In the practical affairs of life they usually (but not always) take second place - but practicalities, utilitarian matters, work, money and material are not nearly so highly regarded in Aristasia as they have long been in your world. In many ways brunettes can be regarded as the more useful but less important sex. If this last statement is a shade unfair, it is certainly no less incorrect than the assumption that blondes are the "inferior sex" - it is probably on the side of blonde rather than brunette superiority that Aristasia is prone to err.

Nevertheless a blonde will tend to be submissive to her own brunette, and perhaps submissive in general. In Aristasia submission is considered a spiritual quality. At the same time Brunettes will pay respect to blondes, standing, for example, when one enters a room. There is a delicate and charming interplay of

respect and submission between the two sexes.

It is partly because of their sacredness that blondes are treated more strictly than brunettes under many circumstances (though as with many generalisations one may make about Aristasia there is also a converse side: a brunette may often receive severer punishment as the party who ought to have been more responsible. Much can be forgiven blonde frailty and the highly emotional nature of blonde psychology). The idea that frequent chastening is a necessary part of the upbringing of a blonde and helps her to develop gentleness, purity and a delicate ætherial sensibility is widely held.

Those unfamiliar with the Aristasian mind might fancy that they detect here a trace of the dogma of "social conditioning" so dear to the doctrinaire masculinists of your post-Eclipse. The dogma, that is, that there are no real mental or psychological differences between the sexes (women being but men in differently-shaped bodies) and that everything we know by the name of femininity is only "social conditioning" forced upon women by men. It is a curious dogma, especially in view of the fact that the copious scientific research conducted in recent years in your world shows incontestably that the mental and psychological differences between men and women are inborn, ineradicable and if anything more wide-ranging than even the Victorians imagined. However, your post-Eclipse world never allows scientific facts to interfere with its official social mythologies.

The truth is that femininity is a natural and vitally important aspect of human existence which has been undervalued and undermined in your world for millennia, and the ultimate consummation of this process is the extirpation of femininity from its last refuge: the heart of woman herself - a process which is only possible because woman has been tricked by the subtly twisted arguments of a false "feminism" into collaborating with her own de-feminisation.

Since Aristasia knows nothing of these matters, it goes without saying for an Aristasian that the upbringing of a blonde - however it may vary in different places—is not a question of inculcating an artificial consciousness, but of coöperating with nature, of developing her inborn sensibility, of creating a perfect blondeness; an image of the Archetype of femininity; a marriage of nature and art.

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